



SENIOR SUNDAY

PARENT CONVERSATION GUIDE



GOD'S STORY: WHY MISTAKES WON'T COUNT YOUR GRAD OUT OF GOD'S STORY

The thing your graduate may be most excited about, *freedom*, could be the thing you are most worried about. The freedom to eat ice cream for breakfast, but also make some unwise choices with alcohol. The freedom to decorate their own living space, but also set themselves up for failure with sexual choices. The freedom to come more into their own, but the freedom to disconnect from church or other followers of Jesus. Inevitably, they will choose paths that make your heart burst with pride, while they also face detours and roadblocks that break your heart.

In light of the mistakes they are *sure* to make, be sure your message to them is one you want to stick:

Jesus
is
bigger
than
any
mistake.

Grace makes Christianity different from every other religion. And grace is key when it comes to your graduate finding their footing in their new independence. Make sure they are getting it from you—and that they know they are getting it from God. Let them know *before* they leave that there are no deal breakers with God or with you, no matter what happens. And by preparing ahead of time, you can help your son or daughter run toward God and the faith community just when they need them the most.

WHAT QUESTIONS CAN HELP ME TALK WITH MY GRADUATE ABOUT MISTAKES?

As you talk with your graduate about sinful temptations, it's often more safe and comfortable to first talk about "other people" through questions such as:

1. Because high school graduates have lots of new freedoms, they can tend to end up making some poor decisions. What kinds of things have you seen on social media, in the news, or in movies that have shown you this?
2. What do you think leads people to make those choices?
3. What advice would you give someone who has made an unwise choice?

When you feel like you can talk with your graduate about *their own* life choices, try questions like:

1. As you step into this new season, what new temptations do you think you will face?

2. When young adults make mistakes, it's often helpful for them to talk with an older and wiser adult. Who could you talk to if you feel like you messed up in some area? (Agree on some names together—and don't take it personally if you don't make the list.)
3. Imagine making a mistake—a pretty big mistake. How do you think God would respond to you? What would God say? (Tip: Try saying something like this to round out this question: *"You are going to make some mistakes, and that's okay. And chances are there will be natural consequences to those mistakes. That's not God punishing you, that just the nature of bad choices. There's a fallout. God is for you, believes something better for you, and is never holding a grudge for how you've messed up."*)
4. What can I do to make it easier for you to talk to me about your struggles and temptations?

HOW CAN I BE EVEN MORE INTENTIONAL IN TALKING ABOUT MISTAKES?



Text "Jesus is bigger than any mistake" and an encouraging piece of scripture you've been reading to your graduate a few times in the next month.



With your graduate, look up some Scripture verses that highlight God's grace in the midst of our mistakes, such as John 3:17, Romans 5:8, or Romans 8:1. Both you and your graduate can choose your "favorite" that you want to memorize.

Ask your graduate to identify an adult they could approach when they blow it, and invite your graduate to grab coffee with that adult ASAP. Strengthening that relationship now can open communication later.



Share with your graduate a really big mistake you made recently or in your past. Describe how you felt then, how you feel now, and how God has met you in the midst of your struggle. Talk about what you would do differently if faced with this temptation now.